

As resistance continues

U.S.-NATO escalate war crimes in Libya

Imperialists use 'rebels' to further plunder Africa

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

While the United States and the other NATO countries express their satisfaction over the destruction of the North African state of Libya that they are engineering, thousands of people have reportedly been killed in the assault on Tripoli and other parts of the country since Aug. 20.

So-called rebel units operating under the banner of the Transitional National Council, after being transported into the capital of Tripoli, are engaging in widespread abuse that includes looting, the destruction of public property and the killing of government loyalists and civilians.

On Aug. 23, the Bab al-Aziziyah compound formerly inhabited by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and his family was bombed again by NATO forces. After severe damage to the massive structure and its surroundings, the TNC rebels entered the area. They were filmed by international media outlets breaking up and destroying everything in sight and later carting away ornaments, consumer goods, furniture and art work.

This orgy of destruction and theft was portrayed in the West as symbolic of the fall of the Libyan government. The compound had been bombed for months by U.S. and NATO warplanes. It was the scene of numerous assassination attempts against Gadhafi and other government officials.

The war has been characterized by large-scale air strikes since March 19. These criminal acts have been carried out jointly by NATO fighter jets, special forces and intelligence units from the U.S., Britain, France, Canada and Qatar, as well as the Western-backed rebels.

Humanitarian crisis spreads

Since March 19, U.S. and NATO forces have executed more than 20,000 sorties over the country, resulting in at least 7,500 air strikes. This coupled with sabotage, theft and murder by the rebels, beginning on Feb. 17, has made the humanitarian situation in Libya and its neighbors reach critical proportions.

The country's oil industry, factories, water supply systems, food storage facilities, communication installations and hospitals were targeted during the ongoing war, which has lasted more than six months. As a result the country has suffered growing shortages of medicines, food, technical supplies and potable water.

The Middle East North Africa Financial Network said the war has created the worst social conditions in Libya since the revolution of 1969. Ali Hamed, a supporter of the attacks against the government, nevertheless revealed that in Tripoli: "For nearly four days, we have no water, no electricity, no petrol. ... We worry especially about the water." (menafn.com, Aug. 29)

The article goes on to admit: "The few open stores

Continued on page 6

HANDS OFF LIBYA

- Protests in NYC, Wis. 6
- McKinney led solidarity rallies 7
- Thousands in India defend Libya 11
- Refusing to side with imperialism 11



CLASS STRUGGLE IN WISCONSIN

Confronting fascists, union-busting 3

MOTHER NATURE REBELS

- Fracking and earthquakes 4
- Irene wreaks havoc 4
- A perfect storm EDITORIAL 10

SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

- ☐ Four weeks trial \$4
- ☐ One year subscription \$25
- ☐ Sign me up for the WW Supporter Program

For information: workers.org/supporters/

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City /State/Zip _____

Workers World
55 W. 17th St. #5C, NY, NY 10011
212.627.2994 workers.org

Union pushes back concessions, demands justice



BOSTON

WW PHOTOS: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Labor and community supporters came out by the hundreds Aug. 24 in solidarity with Bus Drivers Union. See page 5.

LATIN AMERICA RESISTS

- Chile general strike 8
- Cuba and Che 8
- Nicaragua workers' conference 9

REVOLUTIONARY AT 100 Vietnam's Gen. Giap 9

New York City

Supporters rally for survivor as DSK rape charges dropped

By Dolores Cox
New York

Police barricades held back angry protesters as a smiling Dominique Strauss-Kahn, escorted by privately hired security and city police, entered the New York State Supreme Court on Aug. 23, where charges against him for sexual assault were dropped.

Members of the corporate media, including foreign press, and their camera crews lined the courthouse steps and sat under rows of tents across the street, as a helicopter circled overhead. Public access to the courtroom was restricted.

The crowd held signs and shouted, “DSK is guilty!” and “DSK, shame on you!” They showed solidarity with Nafissatou Diallo — who accused Strauss-Kahn of sexually assaulting her — by chanting, “We are Diallo, and she is us!” and “Women united will never be defeated!”

Diallo’s supporters expressed their anger at Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, who requested the dropping of the charges, and demanded his resignation. They were outraged that Diallo was violated twice, once by DSK on May 14 and again by the district attorney.

Vance submitted a 25-page document to the court which recommended that the indictment of Strauss-Kahn be dismissed. He contended that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute him, and also said that Diallo lacked enough credibility to be put on the stand.

The hearing lasted only 15 minutes before Judge Michael Obus granted the dismissal of all charges, with a 30-day stay in order to give Diallo’s lawyer, Kenneth Thompson, time requested to try to obtain assignment of a special prosecutor to the case. The judge denied Thompson’s motion requesting that Vance be disqualified.

An appellate judge denied Thompson’s appeal of the judge’s decision.

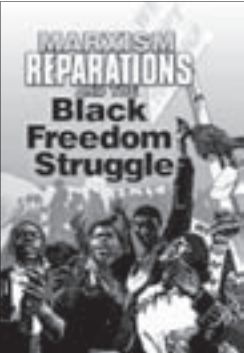
Diallo is a 33-year-old hotel housekeeper from Guinea. Strauss-Kahn is a 62-year-old millionaire with international power and prestige. He was the director of the International Monetary Fund and a former French

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead. Includes

- **Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination** Larry Holmes
- **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy
- **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** LeiLani Dowell
- **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key** Monica Moorehead
- **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!** Saladin Muhammad
- **Alabama’s Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee
- **Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal
- **Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? 40th Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion** John Parker
- **Racism and Poverty in the Delta** Larry Hales
- **Haiti Needs Reparations** Pat Chin

Available at Amazon.com and bookstores around the country
www.workers.org/reparations/



presidential candidate. In France, he is known as being abusive to women.

The Strauss-Kahn rape case is a convergence of gender, class, race, privilege, entitlement and wealth. It’s also about imperialist domination. The IMF’s economic programs are responsible for the forced migration of hundreds of millions of people from poor countries seeking work overseas, and for putting those countries in trillions of dollars of debt. The IMF has a history of ravaging countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere. As such, this capitalist institution owes reparations not only to Guinea, but also to all of Africa for plundering the continent.

Since there was well-founded, sufficient evidence for the grand jury to indict Strauss-Kahn, that evidence should have been sufficient for the case to go to trial. There, the jury could establish whether the witness is credible. Additionally, it is very unusual for a district attorney to destroy his own case.

Well-known pattern of injustice

Interestingly, a witness’s credibility apparently is not an issue when prosecutors use the testimony of organized crime figures to convict others. It’s not an issue when alleged rapists are convicted with only circumstantial evidence, or when the victim can’t identify the perpetrator, or is unwilling to take the stand and testify. (The Central Park jogger case is an example.)

Diallo admits she made misstatements on her immigration application for asylum. However, here as in other cases involving sexual assault, the victim’s background should not be admissible in court.

Reportedly, DSK’s legal team even went to Guinea offering money for testimony regarding Diallo’s character, but could find no one who spoke negatively of her.

A smear campaign by officials and the pro-corporate media has served to damage and defame Diallo, resulting in a miscarriage of justice for her. Questions have been raised regarding apparent leaks from the district attorney’s office to the New York Times about Diallo’s bank account, cell phone records, her asylum application and the divulgence of private grand jury evidence.

Diallo’s case follows a pattern. White men have historically raped Black women for hundreds of years. However, the last documented case of a white man being convicted and jailed for such a criminal act was more than 200 years ago, says Michael Greys, member of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, who have been among Diallo’s main supporters. In contrast, Black men are routinely imprisoned every day without “sufficient evidence” for whatever crime they’re convicted of committing.

Where does this case go from here? Following the hearing, Strauss-Kahn’s passport was returned to him; he is free to return to France. Yet the state may deport Diallo and her daughter.

Diallo will pursue her civil suit against Strauss-Kahn for economic compensation. She is waiting to hear if New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo will appoint a special prosecutor in her case, as her attorney requested.

Diallo must be commended for her courage in coming forth and fighting back. Pursuing her case and obtaining justice will require that the strong community support for Diallo continue and that mass pressure is put on Cuomo and other elected government officials. □

WORKERS WORLD
this week...

★ In the U.S.

Supporters rally for DSK rape survivor.....	2
Whip of reaction propels Wisconsin struggle.....	3
‘No business as usual’ without a fair contract at Verizon	3
Hurricane Irene.....	4
Are quakes and fracking connected?.....	4
Boston union beats back concessions.....	5
Loot the dream looters! Youth are right to rebel!	5
Wisconsin protest demands: ‘U.S., NATO out’	6
McKinney on 27-city tour.....	7
Protesters to counter racists at 9/11 rally	10
Detroit immigrants ‘march without fear’.....	11

★ Around the world

U.S.-NATO escalate war crimes in Libya.....	1
Outside U.N.: ‘Hands off Libya!’	6
General strike in Chile unites students, workers	8
Che Guevara’s work still alive in Cuba	8
Labor meeting in Nicaragua denounces imperialism	9
Celebrating 100th birthday of Vietnam’s General Giap.....	9
War of ideas breaks out over battle in Libya	11
Thousands in India say NO to war on Libya.....	11

★ Editorials

A perfect storm	10
-----------------------	----

★ Noticias En Español

¡EE.UU./OTAN fuera de Libia!.....	12
Los 5 cubanos.....	12

Workers World
55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 53, No. 35 • Sept. 8, 2011
Closing date: Aug. 30, 2011

Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editor: Lal Roohk

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson

West Coast Editor: John Parker

Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac

Technical Staff: Sue Davis, Shelley Ettinger, Bob McCubbin, Maggie Vascassenno

Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Michael Martínez, Carlos Vargas

Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

Copyright © 2011 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at www.workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

JOIN US

Workers World Party (WWP) fights for socialism and engages in struggles on all the issues that face the working class & oppressed peoples — Black & white, Latino/a, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women & men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed & students. If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.
New York, NY 10011
212-627-2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404-627-0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443-909-8964
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617-522-6626
Fax 617-983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-883-2534
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216-738-0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313-459-0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408
Durham, NC 27701
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713-503-2633
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
1905 Rodeo Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
la@workers.org
323-515-5870

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610-931-2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org
Rochester, N.Y.
585-436-6458
rochester@workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619-692-0355
sandiego@workers.org

San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco CA 94103
415-738-4739
sf@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.

tucson@workers.org

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org

Whip of reaction propels Wisconsin struggle

Special to Workers World Milwaukee

The bosses, bankers and their politicians, such as Gov. Scott Walker, thought their attempted union-busting and austerity measures would demoralize and defeat the poor and working people of Wisconsin. But in the face of serious odds and setbacks, the power of the people's resistance kept rolling the week of Aug. 21.

On Aug. 25, the state started making payroll deductions for pensions and health insurance for tens of thousands of public-sector workers. The state's actions were due to a union-busting law, Act 10, enacted on June 29. On average, these wage cuts range from 10 percent to 20 percent. In January state employees will be robbed even more. They'll have to pay for 10 percent of the cost of services for illness and injuries, up to \$500 for a single person and \$1,000 for a family.

Taking advantage of the fact that many public workers no longer have union protection, municipalities and school districts are now doing the same, and will continue to do so — unless there is mass resistance. State, county and municipal workers stand to be robbed of at least \$1 billion over the next year or so. This massive transfer of wealth will go to the rich, including to the banks and bondholders, in fees, interest payments and bonds.

In response to this wholesale robbery — which will have disastrous consequences in cities, towns, and villages across the state, unless fought — hundreds of protesters converged on Madison on Aug. 25, marching from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to a rally on the Capitol steps.

"These are austerity measures," J. Eric Cobb, executive director of the Building Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin, told the crowd, which filled the approach to the Capitol with chants, songs, signs, union banners and heart-shaped balloons. "You can't call this shared sacrifice."

After the rally on the steps, the protesters surged into the Capitol for another rally in the rotunda. Thirteen protesters were arrested for refusing to leave the people's Capitol after so-called closing hours.

Message to Walker: 'Get out'

Hundreds of protesters came out in the Milwaukee neighborhood of Riverwest on Aug. 26 to tell Gov. Scott Walker, "Get



Anti-Walker protest in Milwaukee, Aug. 26.

Out! You're Not Welcome!" Virtually the entire neighborhood around the charter Messmer school — where Walker visited elementary school children and school staff — was out on porches, streets, sidewalks and the alleys behind the school to tell the racist union-buster to leave their neighborhood. Numerous residents invited anti-Walker protesters into their homes and yards.

Riverwest residents said Walker's "visit" was an extreme provocation after he signed Act 10 and pushed through the 2011-13 state budget, which has the worst cuts to social safety nets in state history. Riverwest is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Wisconsin, with many people of color, lesbian, gay, bi, transgender and queer people, women, children, students and seniors. Many of them will suffer greatly and may even die due to Walker's actions, which are being pushed by the banks, corporations and the Pentagon.

During the protest, Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement organizer Bryan G. Pfeifer was arrested and charged with resisting/obstructing an officer. Political activist Ljubomir Andrijasevic was also arrested and charged with impeding an investigation, a municipal citation. Supporters and eyewitnesses say the charges are bogus and are an attempt to intimidate the progressive political movement. A campaign is underway to have all the charges dropped.



Anti-austerity action in Madison, Wis., Aug. 25.

WW PHOTOS: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

Jobs NOW!

During the week of Aug. 21 the organization Jobs Now! and unemployed activists held a sit-in at Rep. Paul Ryan's district offices in Wisconsin to demand the politician fight for living-wage jobs in Congress and hold town hall meetings on the issue. Attempting to get a face-to-face meeting with their congressman, and despite facing locked doors, bans on cameras, increased restrictions on parking and a constant threat of arrest, unemployed protesters maintained their presence all week at Ryan's offices. By the end of the week all of Ryan's offices were occupied and, despite being locked out there, they reoccupied the Kenosha office more than once.

"The 'Where is Paul Ryan?' movement continues to grow every single day. On [Aug. 23] it expanded to Racine, but [it has] expanded to Janesville and Lake Geneva as well. Now, literally every single Paul Ryan constituent office in Wisconsin is under protest or occupation, or both!" says the Jobs Now website, where videos of the protest actions are available. (<http://wisconsinjobsnow.org>)

Say NO to Nazis

Nazi scum are planning to come to West Allis, a working-class suburb just west of Milwaukee, on Sept. 3. They will be confronted by a diverse array of counterprotesters. More than 30 labor,

community and student organizations attended a counterprotest planning meeting on Aug. 21.

Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement has distributed thousands of counterprotest English and Spanish flyers and posters throughout Metro Milwaukee, Madison, Chicago and other areas.

The anti-Nazi leaflet reads in part, "The only weapon we have to defend our unions, to fight foreclosures and evictions, is our unity. Like the Tea Party bigots who support Walker, the Nazis are doing the dirty work of big business."

It concludes: "Don't let the Nazis be unopposed when they come to West Allis. Defend the unity that brought 100,000 people to Madison to fight the union-buster, Gov. Walker. Say NO to racism. We need jobs, not hate."

The week of Aug. 28 progressive West Allis residents and their allies are hitting the streets of the city with a banner: "West Allis against Racism & Union-Busting." Leafleting will take place at shopping plazas, restaurants and door-to-door to counter the fear mongering of the police and the big business interests behind them and the Nazis. For leaflets and more information visit www.wibailoutpeople.org.

For more information and updates: www.defendwisconsin.org, www.vdlf.org, wisafclcio.typepad.com, www.wisafclcio.org. □

Unions tell Verizon:

'No business as usual' without a fair contract

By Kathy Durkin

The Verizon workers who went on strike for two weeks are now back at work while their unions negotiate a fair contract for them. It was the strong strike of 45,000 members of the Communication Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers that pushed the corporation to the bargaining table.

Now back in the workplaces, these brave workers, who carried out the biggest walkout in four years — and did it during a recession — are buoyed by the public solidarity and help they received, as well as by their own unity and strength.

Community solidarity with the strikers was critical. That so many working people — organized and unorganized, in so many cities — supported the strike also pressured Verizon to negotiate. Where there were picket lines, drivers honked

and passersby waved, joined the lines and brought food and water to the strikers.

Nonstriking unionized Verizon employees and allies in other unions picketed Verizon Wireless stores across the country, leafleting and doing outreach. Many potential customers took fliers and did not cross the picket lines. These actions affected Verizon's sales and profits.

This bold strike is a boost to the labor movement, which is under attack in both the public and private sectors. These workers showed that they wouldn't allow Verizon to decimate collective bargaining rights and destroy decent jobs.

Yet this struggle is far from over. The walkout was precipitated by Verizon demanding draconian cutbacks in health insurance, pensions, disability benefits, pay raises, and more — amounting to \$20,000 in cuts per worker per year. The corporation is still insisting on ma-

jor givebacks.

This profit-hungry corporation — which is making record profits and paid no taxes last year — wants to increase its earnings by further squeezing the workers. It is trying to gut job security too, so it can outsource more jobs to low-wage, nonunion plants.

The unions and the workers know that they are up against relentless corporate greed. They know that Verizon has a long history of not playing fair. In 2000, the company agreed not to interfere with organizing. However, the wireless division is not unionized due to corporate animosity.

The communication workers' unions are urgently appealing for active public support of the workers. That support made a big difference during the strike and pushed Verizon to negotiate, and even to extend the prior contract. They urge that strong pressure be put on Ve-

rizon to stop its outrageous demands and sign a fair contract.

This is an opportunity for students, workers in all industries, community activists and all progressive forces to join together in a major struggle against corporate greed.

Help is needed in this fight. The unions are asking supporters to leaflet in front of Verizon Wireless stores, expanding an activity that is already going on in many cities. They ask that no one shop at these stores or purchase Verizon products or services until there's a decent contract.

"Unity@Verizon," a CWA website, gives information on how to help the workers, sign a solidarity statement, sign up to leaflet at a Verizon Wireless store and download leaflets.

Verizon needs to know that there will be "no business as usual" until there is a fair contract. □

Hurricane Irene:

In disasters as in struggles, solidarity helps

By G. Dunkel
New York

Hurricane Irene threatened 55 million people as it swept up the U.S. East Coast, following a rare track for a late-summer storm. Many capitalist politicians, on national, state and local levels, strove to present an image of compassionate and effective concern — equally rare sentiments. Before its winds slowed as it reached the Northeast, Irene struck the Leeward Islands and the Bahamas full force and dumped major amounts of rain on Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. government has spent tens of billions of dollars on “homeland security.” This has strengthened the state’s repressive apparatus. But there is still no coordinated plan for confronting national disasters that affect millions of people.

The TV weather forecasters’ consistent refrain was that Irene was a serious storm and people in the U.S. were lucky to have avoided more damage and destruction. For example, Irene’s “eye” came ashore in New York City an hour after high tide. The retreating tide countered the water the hurricane was pushing into the harbor and lower Manhattan escaped major flooding.

As Irene churned along, various governors, mayors, Federal Emergency Management Agency administrators and Red Cross officials held press conference after press conference pushing the same plan: Individuals should put together a “go” bag, listen to press announcements, and head for higher grounds and safer shores.

They didn’t explain how to do this without a car; how the elderly, infirm, home-bound could do it; and when to leave. The threat affected the whole community. But officials pushed an individual response, lacking any sort of solidarity.

Outrage over Rikers Island

An extreme example of the politicians’ calculated response was how billionaire New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg abandoned the prisoners at Rikers Island, the large prison the city runs on an island off the Queens shore. Rikers has an average population of 14,000, almost all Black or Latino/a, many youths, many awaiting

trial who can’t make bail. Even though Rikers was surrounded by Zone A areas which were designated to be evacuated, the city put it in Zone B and stubbornly refused to develop a plan to move the inmates.

It was encouraging that a section of the progressive movement concerned about prisoners — on the initiative of Critical Resistance, The Jericho Movement and some radical attorneys — mobilized to demand an evacuation plan for Rikers. Enough complaints reached the mayor’s office that officials were forced to make public statements on the issue and the media reported it. It was a dress rehearsal for a greater storm.

Socialist Cuba’s disaster responses

Cuba, much smaller than the United States and much poorer than Manhattan, is frequently hit by major storms. It does cooperate in exchanging information about hurricanes with U.S. forecasters. (New York Times, Aug. 21, 2009)

But its civil defense against hurricane devastation is much different.

Every household gets an evacuation plan long before the hurricane’s arrival, and drills are held regularly. As the hurricane approaches, news media issue warnings and civil-defense officials alert local response teams, which reach each resident of each block of each town and village.

Schools and other buildings are quickly turned into shelters, and a doctor, and sometimes a nurse, is assigned to staff them and deliver medicine and medical care to those who need it. There are stocks of blankets, water and food. Forty-eight hours before the expected arrival of the hurricane, people prepare to evacuate.

When the storm is a day away, volunteers go door-to-door to ensure everyone gets out of harm’s way. Government buses, cars and trucks transport people to safety. The shelters take in anyone who can’t find another safe place to stay, though many take shelter with friends or relatives. During Hurricane Ike in 2008, Cuba evacuated 2.6 of its 11.4 million people to safety. (AP, Sept. 18, 2008)

In North and South Carolina, where Irene first made landfall in the U.S., and southern Virginia, most people directly threatened were tourists with their own vehicles who could flee with only encouragement from the authorities.

As Irene lingered over land and cooler water, its winds lost much of their punch, but the accompanying rains presented a major danger. This year’s wet summer left much of the East Coast’s land soft and saturated. More rain and the remaining wind brought trees down, which blocked roads, brought down overhead power lines and caused some deaths. Up to a million households and businesses lost power in Virginia.

Maryland and New Jersey ordered beach resorts evacuated, turning highways into one-way, out-only byways, especially in New Jersey. There were scattered reports of local residents forced into shelters not ready for the influx. The ensuing chaos and confusion took authorities a day or so to straighten out.

Response in New York City

The authorities in New York City, the financial and media capital of the U.S., had reason to believe Irene might hit the city head-on. It was the first such hurricane in three decades. They also knew that their lack of preparation for and completely inadequate response to the Dec. 26, 2010, blizzard ground the city to a halt, in some communities up to several weeks, and led to heavy complaints.

The city’s Office of Emergency Management had a map defining three areas at risk of flooding. Roughly, Zone A was likely to flood with a Level 1 storm or above; Zone B with a Level 2 or above; and Zone C with a Level 3 or 4 storm. Higher areas were considered safe to stay in. (Full disclosure: I live on the boundary of Zones A and B and decided to evacuate.)

Mayor Bloomberg issued a mandatory evacuation order for everyone living in Zone A, and the city began evacuating disabled patients in Zone A hospitals and nursing homes starting Aug. 25. Some of these evacuations went smoothly. Others had a lot of problems, with missing medications, incompatible electronic records and resistance of some business operators to the costs they might face.

Not evacuating was a misdemeanor, although the mayor promised not to prosecute. For the affluent residents of Battery Park City in Manhattan, where rents start at \$4,000 for efficiency apartments, spending a few nights in a hotel and using cabs or a car service were no budget-breakers.

For Lower East Side residents of New York City Housing Authority high rises, it was a totally different story. While evacuating on the subway at a stop without an elevator, I met an elderly woman with a disabled daughter who had to be manually carried down the stairs before boarding a train to Brooklyn, where a relative would meet them.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced Aug. 26 that it was stopping both subways and buses at noon on Aug. 27. Most city residents went along with shutting down the subway system, the first voluntary shutdown to protect the subway cars in its 100-year history. There was less support for shutting down the buses because they were under less threat. However, the shutdown meant many people couldn’t get to work on the weekend — which meant they lost wages.

And the shutdown meant that hundreds of NYCHA residents who depend on public transport had no way to get to the shelters the city had opened. Nevertheless, the city still forced them out, threatening to turn off elevators.

Local elected politicians started raising a stink, and the city finally scrounged up some school buses and got fire fighters to drive NYCHA residents to shelters, particularly those in Coney Island and the Rockaways, which are barrier islands facing the Atlantic in Brooklyn and Queens.

The city boasted that it had 92 shelters, with space for 70,000 people, though not enough beds. Though there were 370,000 people in Zone A, only about 9,000 people took advantage of the shelters, according to the media. They slept on cots that were cheek-to-jowl. As soon as the storm passed on Aug. 28, people left the shelters. Downgraded to a tropical storm after it hit landfall in New York City, Irene still dumped much rain, producing flooding and mud slides in Connecticut, New Jersey and upstate New York and major flooding, power loss, road closings and vanished bridges in Vermont.

The clean-up and restoration of services have begun, though thousands of people are newly homeless and many businesses are in ruins. Already Republican politicians are saying that the multibillion-dollar cost of rebuilding must be taken out of cuts in the federal budget. That’s not what Cuba would do. □

Fracking opponents and scientists ask:

Are quakes and fracking connected?

By Betsey Piette

Is there a connection between the controversial natural gas drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and the extremely rare 5.8-magnitude earthquake that rocked Washington, D.C., and significant sections of the U.S. East Coast on Aug. 23? This is a question many scientists are now asking.

U.S. Geological Survey scientist Mike Blanpied stated that while the drilling process has been linked to very small earthquakes, it has not been known to induce large quakes. However Blanpied admitted that “the thing that can induce larger earthquakes is the high-pressure waste fluid injection that’s done in some places.” (coloradoindependent.com)

Fracking involves the injection of as much as 3 million gallons of chemical-laden salt water deep into rock beds. The fluids are brought back up and stored in surface pits for later disposal, including

the reinjection of the waste salt water in separate deep-injection wells. These disposal wells are what prompted investigations by the USGS after rare earthquake swarms in southern Colorado. Just one day before the D.C. quake, a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred in Las Animas County, Colo.

In July, the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission identified four disposal wells that it recommended shutting down after swarms of earthquakes, as many as two dozen in one day, shook the state in spring 2010. Arkansas ordered a moratorium on new disposal wells. After the ban, earthquake activity dropped by two-thirds.

While no drilling was being done in Mineral, Va., the epicenter of the Aug. 23 quake, it is fairly close to the border with West Virginia, where fracking operations started years ago. In 2010, Braxton County, W.Va., experienced eight smaller earthquakes. (Alternet)

Smaller freak earthquakes have occurred in Texas, western New York, Oklahoma and Blackpool, England, all in the vicinity of waste fluid reinjection wells. A joint study by Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas-Austin found that earthquakes started occurring in the Dallas/Fort Worth region after a fracking disposal well began operating there in 2008, but stopped when it was closed in 2009. (Watershed Sentinel, March/April)

Earthquake experts from the British Geological Survey also linked smaller quakes in the Blackpool area to fracking. “It seems quite likely that they are related,” argues Dr. Brian Baptie from the BGS. “We had a couple of instruments close to the site and they show that both events were close to the site and at a shallow depth.”(priceofoil.org, June 1) Drilling operations there were also suspended.

Concerns have also been raised about

potential damage to the expanding network of natural gas pipelines that run through the areas now experiencing quakes.

While scientific evidence is mounting, the oil and natural gas industry, eager to protect the lucrative profits to be made from fracking, has been quick to dismiss the charges. This follows an industry pattern of denying any link between unsafe drilling practices and mounting evidence of contamination of water wells, ponds and rivers in drilling areas. Concerns about the health and safety of residents and workers in drilling areas are also dismissed by the industry, which has been able to buy enough politicians to ensure that serious investigations by government agencies will never be carried out.

But opposition to fracking is growing internationally. With communities and activists protesting quakes in addition to poisoned and polluted water, the industry has a real battle on its hands. □

Reviving culture of labor fightback

Boston union beats back concessions, launches justice campaign for retirees

By Gerry Scoppettuolo
& Stevan Kirschbaum
Boston

“We don’t go to retirement parties. We go to funerals!” shouted Steelworkers Local 8751 Vice President Steve Gillis as he rallied more than 500 members of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union and their supporters in Boston Teachers Union Hall on Aug. 24. The occasion was the Community/Student/Labor Solidarity Rally, part of the union’s Fight for Retirement with Dignity and Contract Justice. The crowd roared its agreement — because without retirement benefits, bus drivers can’t afford to leave the job and retire. Union organizers point out that after decades of service, the company “throws them to the curb like a used tire.”

By the time the standing-room-only meeting was over two hours later, it was clear the drivers — Haitian, African-American, Latino/a and white — had united as a mighty unstoppable force and were ready to force many concessions demanded by First Student Corporation off the bargaining table.

The workers took the strength of the rally directly into round-the-clock negotiating sessions with the company, and turned the Aug. 25-26 “bid” for fall bus route assignments into a two-day rally for retirement dignity and a fair contract.

The Bus Drivers are reviving the labor culture of fightback, beating back company demands for vicious concessions and demanding progress and economic justice at a time when unions are under attack.

The union is fighting for retirement benefits to allow older members to retire with dignity. A majority of the membership is over 50. Currently bus drivers are the only school workers who receive no pension and lose all benefits, including those for health and life insurance, when they leave the job. Recently a worker retired after decades on the job and died a few weeks later. Because all health and life insurance was discontinued on the day he left the job, his family didn’t even have sufficient funds to cover the cost of burial.



Boston school bus drivers retirees are honored, Aug. 24.

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

The union is demanding a company match to the pension fund (so it contributes the same amount as the drivers), a lump-sum-appreciation payment, and continued health and life insurance at time of retirement. A high point of the rally was a salute to a large group of veteran drivers over 65, led by Bob Traynham, 74; Naomi Miller, 81; and Charlie Hoy, 71.

For decades, the Bus Drivers union has been a beacon of militant unionism and the fight for civil rights, opposing racist school segregation in Boston and supporting every peoples’ campaign for justice and against war.

Richard Stutman, Boston Teachers Union president, welcomed the drivers to the hall and pledged the teachers’ aid in the struggle. Boston City Councilor Charles Yancey told the assembly, “You are under attack. Make no mistake about it. Today the Council passed a resolution of support for the Verizon workers, and there needs to be one for you, too!” A benediction was delivered by Bishop Philip Teixeira OFSC, Diocese of St. Francis of Assisi.

Taking a stand for our children & all workers’

One of many emotional peaks during

the rally was when Myles Calvey, business agent of the Verizon workers in International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2222, brought a delegation of union workers who were recently on strike against the communications giant. “We are there for you!” Calvey shouted to the crowd. “They will push us into the ocean if we let them! We have to take a stand for our children and for all workers!”

The bus drivers had expressed solidarity with these fellow union members by walking the Verizon picket lines during the strike. Calvey acknowledged the long-standing solidarity between the two unions going all the way back to the Verizon strike of 1989, when BSBD members were arrested on the Local 2222 picket line.

Boston City Councilors Felix Arroyo and Tito Jackson offered their support. Arroyo, the son of long-time City Councilor Felix Arroyo Sr., is a recent union organizer with the Service Employees union, while Jackson’s father, Herbert Jackson, was a founder of the Greater Roxbury Workers Association.

Solidarity speakers included Sandra McIntosh of the Coalition for Equal Quality Education; Jose Lopez, Teachers Ac-

tivist Group; Myia X, youth leader of the Women’s Fightback Network, SistaCipher and Politicin with the Sistas; Darrin Howell, MassUniting; Frantz Dry, Fanmi Lavalas; Frank Neisser, Bail Out the People Movement; representatives from the Greater Boston Labor Council, Mass AFL-CIO and more.

This rally, like the 100 percent shutdown of the “bid” for assignment of summer school routes on June 25, demonstrated the truly historic level of unity of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union.

The rally was a kick-off to a broad, citywide campaign for retirement with dignity. The union members plan to let First Student, the School Department and Mayor Thomas Menino know they demand respect — now! There will be City Council resolutions and hearings, press and media work, and extensive outreach to parents, students, people of faith and the entire Boston community. Materials will include literature, stickers, posters and buttons. An online petition is being prepared demanding “Retirement with Dignity NOW!”

For more information and to read the latest union bulletin, go to www.boston-schoolbusunion.org/ □

Loot the dream looters! Youth are right to rebel!

This statement by Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) was written when youth in Britain Aug. 6-9 were rebelling against police brutality, racism and high unemployment.

A war is going on across the world right now.

Bankers and international capitalists, who own the world’s wealth in billions and trillions of dollars, have decided that the future of humanity is negotiable.

They have decided also that basic things like Social Security should be abolished and the elderly should be left in misery.

They have decided that the right to organize a union should be removed and workers should be reduced to mere wage slaves with no representation on the job, no matter how conciliatory and moderate that representation might be.

They have decided public education should be abolished.

They have decided that prisons should blossom and house millions more.

They have decided on endless wars in

Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan, hoping to expand them to Syria and elsewhere. They now seek to thrust their decision on humanity.

They see this current period as one of “transition.” They seek to “transition” all working-class people — and all others who do not fit into the less than 1 percent who own the world — into a life of accepting poverty, starvation, criminalization and misery.

They have gathered their armies.

But now, the army of resistance is showing its face and beating the drums of war in response to this criminal assault.

The sleeping giant is awakening, and the bosses tremble in terror as it roars back at them.

So often, youth are accused of being “disinterested” and “apathetic.” They are dismissed as being without morality, without motivation and without direction. Well, the direction is here.

If you want to see the “direction” of this generation, look into the streets of

London. This action was not criminality. It was a political uprising.

When police ruthlessly murdered another young Black man, these youth did not passively go on with their lives. They fought back.

In Greece, youth are leading revolutionary anti-capitalist movements.

In Spain, youth calling themselves “the generation without a future” are doing the same.

The banker class, which lives by stealing, should expect more and more looting. If youth are without food, they will burst supermarkets open and feed themselves. If youth are without jobs and a decent way of providing for themselves, they will take what they have never had an opportunity to earn.

The thieves are on Wall Street. These thieves take more and more, yet are only rewarded.

The most violent, looting thieves in the world are in the Pentagon. They destroy countries in order to secure Wall



FIST STATEMENT

Street profits.

Expect more revolutionary action! Expect the scenes on the streets of Greece to begin looking more like the streets of St. Petersburg in 1905 or Havana in the 1950s.

The struggles of today will inspire the young communists of tomorrow. They will assimilate the revolutionary doctrine of Marxism in order to defeat this system, just as the youth of Russia and Cuba did. Armed with a class understanding, youth will create the future this system fails to provide.

This is only the beginning of the most epic battles in history. The banker class of looting thieves will lose their ability to rule over the rest of humanity only when their ownership and control over the means of production has been broken and their brutal state is dissolved.

The battle for jobs, education and health care and to protect immigrant and oppressed people is setting the stage for a wider battle and eventually an entirely new and human social system.

Which side are you on? □

At U.N. African Union mission: ‘Hands off Libya!’

Omowale Clay, of the December 12th Movement International Secretariat, spoke in defense of Libya at an Aug. 23 news conference in New York City in front of the African Union mission to the United Nations. Fifty people, including a delegation from Côte d’Ivoire, came to support the African Union’s stand against the invasion of Libya. Speakers included New York City Councilmember Charles Barron, who was the Freedom Party’s candidate for governor of New York in 2010.

— Stephen Millies

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN



U.S.-NATO escalate war crimes in Libya

Continued from page 1

here have mostly bare shelves. People stand in line for bread, pay greatly inflated prices for black-market fuel and scrounge for water to drink or bathe. They still hear daily bursts of gunfire.”

Many residents of the capital fear the city could be completely without water in a few days. Many neighborhoods in and around Tripoli already have no water or electricity. The sickness and deaths are reaching critical proportions.

The rebel forces were trained by NATO to seize the city, not run it. A TNC official said: “We don’t know the electricity problem, we don’t know the water problem, we don’t know the communication problem. In the next few days we will have answers.” (Guardian [Britain], Aug. 27)

One of the most gruesome scenes resulting from the NATO bombing and the TNC rebel onslaught on Tripoli was the discovery of hundreds of bodies at a hospital that had been attacked by the invading opposition forces.

The British air force played a major role in the bombing of Tripoli. The state-owned British Broadcasting Corp. reported on the mass deaths at the hospital: “More than 200 decomposing bodies have been found abandoned at a hospital in a district of the Libyan capital Tripoli that has seen fierce fighting. A BBC correspondent found corpses of men, women and children on beds and in the corridors of Abu Salim’s hospital. ...

“Our correspondent says the stench was appalling. People were trying to clean up some of the mess and return the hospital to normality, but that was an impossible task because of the sheer number of bodies, he adds.” (BBC, Aug. 26)

Reports are surfacing of other massacres throughout the country. The TNC forces and NATO are trying to blame the supporters of the Libyan government, but these claims remain largely unsubstantiated.

However, what is clear is the central role of the U.S. and NATO in the destruction of Libya, a country that had enjoyed the highest standard of living in Africa and had achieved tremendous gains in the technical and scientific fields over the last four decades. Today it has been tremendously set back by Western-imposed sanctions, a naval blockade, blanket bombings and media vilification.

Fighting continues for control of country

Although the TNC rebels and their NATO backers have been proclaiming victory over the government and people of Libya since Aug. 21, fighting still rages on throughout the country. In Tripoli, the security situation remains unsettled as loyalist forces remain in defensive postures against the rebel units.

The rebels are facing formidable resistance in their efforts to advance on the city of Sirte, Gadhafi’s hometown. TNC officials said they were forced to retreat from positions near Sirte amid a barrage of rockets fired by the Libyan military operating in the region.

Even the BBC admitted that TNC chair Mustafa Abdul Jalil and other leaders are remaining in the east of the country due to continued resistance by loyalist forces in Tripoli and the west.

A British paper reported: “Guerrilla fighters from the rebel stronghold of

Benghazi in eastern Libya have been advancing towards [Sirte] in recent days, but have so far got only as far as the edge of Bin Jawad, a town around 100 miles away. Fawzi Bukatif, a rebel commander, said attempts to persuade the Sirte loyalists to surrender had so far been fruitless. ‘We are waiting for people in Sirte to come out and talk but we’ve got no answer up to now.’” (Telegraph, Aug. 29)

The Western-backed rebels are still unable to reopen the main highway between Tripoli and neighboring Tunisia — an essential supply route for oil and food.

The rebels have again called upon NATO to intensify its bombing operations over Sirte so they can advance toward the city.

In the port city of Misrata, which has seen heavy fighting for several months, there have been demonstrations against the TNC rebels over their appointment as security administrator of a former Libyan

governmental official who defected from Gadhafi. The TNC is by no means a cohesive alliance. Without the backing of the U.S. and NATO, its poorly trained units would have been defeated early on.

Further evidence of the total reliance upon NATO by the TNC rebels was revealed when their chairman, Abdel Jalil, was quoted on August 29 from Qatar as saying, “Even after the fighting ends, we still need logistical and military support from NATO.” Backing up this line of thinking, U.S. Admiral Samuel Locklear, who heads the NATO joint operations command, told a news conference in Doha, “We believe the Gaddafi regime is near collapse, and we’re committed to seeing the operation through to its conclusion.” (Financial Times, August 29)

As fighting continues inside Libya, the United Nations Security Council, which is dominated by the same imperialist powers that have attacked and invaded the country, has drawn up plans to intervene with a so-called peacekeeping force. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon made it clear that the role of the “peacekeepers” would be to disarm the Libyan people when he commented that the country was “awash with small arms.” The Gadhafi government had given out weapons to the people when the imperialist attack started, showing its confidence in their support.

African Union refuses to recognize rebels

Despite enormous pressure coming from the U.S. and NATO, the 54-member African Union has refused to recognize the rebel TNC forces as the legitimate rulers of Libya. Meeting at AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the continental organization is still demanding that a government of national unity be established in Libya that would include loyalists from the Gadhafi government.

The AU since March 11 has called for a ceasefire, the removal of foreign forces from the country, a halt to the bombing by the U.S. and NATO and the holding of internationally supervised elections. The rebels have not been elected by anyone inside of Libya and therefore their presence in the capital is not considered legitimate by the AU.

The U.S.-NATO military alliance and the rebels have rejected all overtures by the AU to mediate in the Libya crisis. □

Wisconsin protest demands: ‘U.S., NATO out’



Members of Casa Maria Catholic Worker House, the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, the International Action Center, the Latin American Solidarity Committee, Peace Action Wisconsin, Students for a Democratic Society and Work-

ers World Party held a protest in downtown Milwaukee on Aug. 27 to demand the U.S. and NATO get out of Libya and to oppose the recolonization of Africa by imperialist nations.

— Report and photo by Bryan G. Pfeifer

McKinney on 27-city tour

Strong turnout at rallies against Libya war

By Workers World bureau writers

Continuing a nationwide tour to report on her fact-finding visit to Libya, former Georgia Congressperson Cynthia McKinney spoke at Philadelphia's Calvary Church on Aug. 26, writes **Dolores Cox**. More than 200 people, mostly from the city's oppressed Black communities, filled the room to capacity.

McKinney and her international delegation put themselves in harm's way in order to uncover the truth about the imperialist war and disprove the many lies emanating from the White House and corporate media.

The International Action Center is organizing her North American tour, with endorsements from many grassroots organizations. Betsey Piette and Berta Joubert-Ceci of the Philadelphia IAC coordinated the evening's program. Speakers included Sara Flounders, IAC national office co-director; Pam Africa, MOVE and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; and representatives from various anti-war organizations, community groups and independent media.

Philadelphia supporters rallied against the U.S.-NATO war on Libya with the goal of building unity in support of the Libyan people's resistance to the daily bombings that have gone on for 159 days as of Aug. 26.

The meeting's chairperson, Joubert-Ceci, introduced McKinney as a fiery, true revolutionary, worthy of receiving a Che Guevara award and one who put herself on the line for the people. Not only was McKinney's trip to Libya risky, she stated, but here at home she also needs protection from her own imperialist government.

Pam Africa referred to McKinney as an international warrior for peace. Africa made the connection between the U.S. domestic war on African Americans, using Cointelpro to murder leaders, and U.S. terrorism against the African continent and the Middle East, aimed at destroying anti-colonial governments.

Flounders gave a global view of U.S. terrorism and military interventions. The U.S. has hundreds of military bases throughout the world in order to enrich the wealthy. While the U.S. is attacking oil-rich Libya, it is also planning its next war, with carte blanche to murder leaders and their family members.

People everywhere have an enormous hunger for the truth, but get lies instead, she added. Demonization of targeted leaders is a propaganda strategy used. Libya's government provides free housing, health care and subsidized higher education for its people. Yet they're living in hell due to the attacks. U.S. and NATO have no shame! Gadhafi is a threat to the U.S. due to his country's wealth and aid to the rest of Africa and to other "interests" of the U.S. and former colonial powers.

Flounders made the connection between budget cuts, homelessness and unemployment here at home, and the cost of militarism to U.S. residents, whose taxes pay for the wars. This is a crime against us by our own country. An attack on Libya is an attack on all of us.

Cynthia McKinney described the vast destruction of Libya's infrastructure and innocent civilians injured and murdered. Graphic video slides accompanied her talk. She said she has a heavy heart



PHILADELPHIA



DENVER

PHOTOS: RIC URRUTIA

when she thinks of the trapped Libyans and journalists, surrounded by rubble and unable to leave the country, and of the assassination/capture attempts of Col. Gadhafi and his sons.

Merciless, unrelenting bombing has had an effect not only on the people, McKinney added, but on the environment as well. Dark clouds and the sky are laden with black grit, ash and depleted uranium from the bombings. She made a comparison with the destruction of Gaza, which she witnessed after days of nonstop Israeli bombings. Targets were similar: homes, schools, hospitals, factories, sewerage systems and electric power installations — war crimes under international law. McKinney stated that she'll be against U.S. man-made wars every time and continue to raise awareness.

U.S.-NATO interventions, McKinney related, have also created a climate of racism in Europe against African descendants, leading to increasing attacks, and have fostered attacks and killings of dark-skinned Libyans.

It will take unity and solidarity movements to end aggressions and all wars. We must struggle for peace. At the ballot box we must vote for peace and liberation from war mongers in both political parties. Libya has a right to self-determination. Libya for the Libyans!

Full house in Detroit

Kris Hamel reports that it was a full house in Detroit on Aug. 27 as McKinney spoke truth to power about her recent trip to Libya and her defense of that Af-

rican country from the brutal machinations of NATO and U.S. imperialism. An audience comprised of people of many nationalities, ages, abilities and struggles cheered McKinney and other speakers, including Mark Fancher of the National Conference of Black Lawyers; Maureen Taylor, chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization; Fred Vitale of the Green Party of Michigan and Detroit Greens; and Abayomi Azikiwe, a contributing editor of Workers World newspaper and a Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice organizer.

The program also featured wonderful revolutionary music and song from Siaire Reign and the group Black Reign. The meeting was initiated by MECAWI in conjunction with the IAC national tour.

Denver: Brother Jeff's packed

McKinney spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at Brother Jeff's Cultural Center and Cafe in the heart of the historic Five Points Black community of Denver on Aug. 28, writes **Larry Hales**. One hundred people packed the room in protest against the U.S.-NATO war on the Libyan people and to hear former Congresswoman McKinney, who ended her North American tour here.

The crowd was multinational but primarily made up of activists and members of the Black community. There were also members of the Nation of Islam, students from Libya, immigrant rights activists from Latin America — including Mexico and Peru, from East Africa, West Africa, and one from Algeria.

Speakers also described the struggle

for immigrants' rights and, in particular, that of a coalition of workers from the Swift meat packing plant in Greeley, Colo., that is made up of immigrants from Latin America, Somalia and other communities. An activist from Comité en Defensa del Pueblo spoke, as did two IAC activists, including people's attorney Mark Burton. Local musician Ietef performed a spoken-word piece. Brother Jeff emceed the event and gave a warm welcome to McKinney, whom the crowd greeted with a standing ovation.

Broad community support in Baltimore

Some 300 people packed the Union Baptist Church on Aug. 24 to hear McKinney speak, writes **Steven Ceci**. The meeting was initiated by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the All Peoples Congress, Job Is A Right Campaign, Black Think Tank, Ujima Peoples Progress Party and Workers World Party. A coalition of over 17 groups and individuals helped ensure the success of the meeting.

National speakers at the meeting, besides McKinney, included IAC co-director Sara Flounders and Dr. Randy Short. Important community leaders from Baltimore participated, including Rev. Dr. Alvin Hathaway of Union Baptist Church, Eartha Harris of the Millions More Movement, reparations writer Dr. Raymond Winbush, Pres. Maryland/D.C. AFL-CIO Fred Mason, David Johnson of Black Think Tank and representatives from the Green Party, Answer, All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party, Workers World Party and Ujima Peoples Progress Party. The event was co-chaired by Rev. C.D. Witherpoon, president of the SCLC and Sharon Black of the All Peoples Congress. □

WW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

‘Stop privatization of education’

General strike in Chile unites students, workers

By Gene Clancy

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators across Chile supported the second day of a general strike on Aug. 25 as protests against the privatization of education escalated into demands for sweeping governmental and social change.

The government of right-wing billionaire Sebastián Piñera responded to the two-day general strike with repression and violence. This included mass arrests and the killing of at least one youth.

The 14-year-old boy, Manuel Gutiérrez Reinoso, died early Aug. 26 from a bullet wound in the chest. Witnesses said he had been shot by police. Dozens of others were injured and as many as 1,400 detained or arrested.

Police in full riot gear have used tear gas and water cannons against blockades that protesting youths set up. Cops also shot 18-year-old Mario Parraguez Pinto in the eye; he is in critical condition at a hospital in Santiago, the Chilean capital.

Gutiérrez Reinoso’s death followed a demonstration of some 600,000 in Santiago and protests in other cities throughout the country. Protesters are demanding free public education, increased taxes on

the corporations and the wealthy, and better pensions and health care for workers.

The Workers’ United Center of Chile (CUT) and the Chilean Student Confederation (Confech) called the two-day strike, the first of its kind since the end of dictator Augusto Pinochet’s rule in 1990.

In addition to being large, the demonstrations were militant. Some protesters burned barricades and blocked major streets, while other strike supporters danced and sang on sidewalks. The police used water cannons, tear gas and mass arrests at both confrontational and peaceful protests.

“It’s time to change the political system, the economic system, so there is a fairer redistribution of power and of wealth,” said student leader Camila Vallejo. “All this development model has done is make a few grossly rich.” (juventudrebelde.co.cu, Aug. 26)

Demand to nationalize copper industry

Among the demands of the students is the nationalization of the copper industry with part of the proceeds being used to finance a free public education system. Chile is the number one copper producer in the world and sells \$40 billion of cop-

per each year.

The Pinochet dictatorship encouraged the proliferation and dominance of private education, encouraged by U.S. economist Milton Friedman and his “Chicago boys.” This neoliberal approach was continued and nurtured by successive governments. Profit-making universities run by big businesspeople, including establishment politicians, dominate the educational scene.

The former minister for education, Joaquín Lavín, who attempted to pose as a “neutral” moderator between the student movement and the universities and whom Piñera removed in a desperate “re-shuffle,” has huge shares himself in a major Chilean university. Education has become a profitable field of investment for capitalists, with rising fees and worsening standards.

The current movement responding to this situation is three months old. Weeks of mass mobilizations culminated twice in massive days of protest both in June and in August, when 500,000 took to the streets in the biggest demonstrations since Pinochet fell. The overwhelming majority of public universities and secondary schools have been occupied.

The movement has rocked the regime, which responded first by suspending classes and then beginning “negotiations” with the movement’s representatives. The government has offered some concessions, including an increase in the funding of education. But the movement, with its radical central demand for free education, rejected, a week before the strike, a third government attempt to end the protests, this time by pledging to lower the interest rates on student loans.

Students are not the only ones expressing grievances. Earlier this year, a rebellion over rising natural gas prices shut down the southern Magallanes region. In April, demonstrators marched against a planned hydroelectric dam in Patagonia.

Piñera, who is possibly the richest man in Chile, was the first billionaire ever sworn into office in Chile. He won a narrow runoff election in 2010 with \$13.6 million of campaign spending. The current political crisis has seen his popularity decline precipitously to 26 percent according to a recent poll. By contrast, 80 percent support the demands of the students and workers. (Santiago Times, Aug. 7)

The Chilean workers and students deserve international support and solidarity.

Letter to WW

Che Guevara’s work still alive in Cuba

Dear comrades,

It is my great honor to greet you again!

As you are going to hold an important meeting in October 2011, paying tribute to Ernesto Che Guevara, I would like to submit the following short article about him.

As Che is an important example of internationalism, I think it is a good idea to publish information about him.

Once again, thank you very much. I really appreciate your solidarity.

In solidarity,
Ildefonso
Teacher
Cuba

Ernesto Che Guevara — the Heroic Guerrilla — was born in Rosario, Argentina, June 14, 1928. He rapidly acquired a broad education and rebelled against social injustice.

While still a student, touring Latin America, he came to understand the brutal exploitation of the workers, peasants and the Indigenous peoples. From that time on he dreamt of the revolution to emancipate the oppressed and exploited peoples of Latin America.

Having become a doctor, he traveled again. In Guatemala he defended the democratic regime of Jacobo Árbenz. He met some Cuban revolutionaries, among

them Severino Rossell and Níco López. Pursued by the FBI, Che left for Mexico where he met Fidel and Raúl Castro and he committed himself to our Revolution.

He joined the 82 on the expedition of the boat Granma as the doctor for the guerrilla army, but beginning with the first combat he took up arms and quickly became one of the most knowledgeable and intrepid guerilla fighters. He won promotions quickly until he reached the rank of Commander.

He fought in Alegría de Pío, La Plata, El Uvero, El Hombito, Pino del Agua and Mar Verde. On Aug. 31, 1958, he went to the front of the Column 8, “Ciro Redon-

do,” headed west. After a heroic march, he arrived at the Escambray Mountains. There Column 8 fought victoriously in Guiría de Miranda, and took Fomento, Cabaiguán, Placetas, Caibarién and Santa Clara. In this last city, he demonstrated his great capabilities as a political and military leader in the mobilization of the people and the derailment of the armored train. This battle was one of the decisive ones to drive out the tyrant.

In January 1959, after the triumph of the Revolution, Che assumed important functions in the Rebel Army, in the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA) and in the Revolutionary Leadership. He ended up being the President of the National Bank and Secretary of Industries.

Che represented Cuba abroad in numerous economic and political missions. He made extraordinary contributions to the development of the revolutionary conscience of our people, particularly in the communist education of the youth. He contributed with valuable ideas on industrialization, the revolution in technology, productivity, savings, quality and other aspects of socialist construction.

In 1965, considering the Revolution completely consolidated, and faithful to his dream of going to fight for the emancipation of other peoples, he left his important functions in Cuba and put all his efforts to the internationalist cause in Africa and in Latin America.

Wounded and captured in Bolivia, on Oct. 8, 1967, he was murdered despicably by the minions of reaction and imperialism.

For the people of Cuba, Ernesto Che Guevara is a beloved symbol of the new human being. He is a banner of struggle for all the peoples of the world who fight to win or hold their independence and freedom. □

WORKERS WORLD PARTY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE GLOBAL CAPITALIST ECONOMIC CRISIS—

What it will take to fight it

Plenaries, workshops and discussion groups on:

▶ Understanding the nature, severity of the crisis — a Marxist analysis

▶ Opposing imperialist wars, occupations; supporting self-determination

▶ The growing, militant fightback by the workers & oppressed

▶ Why the solution is to abolish capitalism & build SOCIALISM and more . . .

Bring your questions & comments

Save the dates: **Sat. & Sun., OCT. 8 - 9**

PAUL ROBESON AUDITORIUM

140th St. and Morris Avenue, Bronx NY

4, 5, 6 trains to E. 138th St/Grand Concourse

The conference is dedicated to the revolutionary spirit of internationalist hero, **CHE GUEVARA** martyred on Oct. 8, 1967.

Go to workers.org and workerworld.net for updates.



‘Ni un paso atras’ — Not one step backward!

Labor meeting in Nicaragua denounces imperialism

**By Martha Grevatt
Managua, Nicaragua**

More than 300 delegates, representing 134 working-class organizations in 27 countries of the Americas, met August 25-27 in Managua, Nicaragua. In plenaries and workshops, delegate after delegate described the suffering in their country caused by neoliberal economic policies, brutal political repression and the capitalist recession.

Four years ago the World Federation of Trade Unions initiated the “Encuentro Sindical Nuestra América” (ESNA) [the Union Meeting of Our America]. Previous conferences were held in Ecuador, Brazil and Venezuela.

Víctor Mendibil, secretary general of the judicial workers union (FJA) of Argentina and a communications coordinator for ESNA, laid out the goals of the conference: “In agreement and unity with the working class of the continent, we will give an alternative response to those initiatives that aim, at a global level within a reformist framework and with close ties to the dominant economic powers, to be the social arm of the World Bank or the IMF.

“We, with a deep spirit of class and liberation, will work within ESNA with the prospect of building a large movement that will help transform society and ad-

vance along the path of social justice, the integration of our peoples, sovereignty and peace. To the advances the multinationals are making against workers’ rights,” he added, “we should put up a barrier and for this, dozens of delegations in Managua were here today in class solidarity to develop that strategy of the workers against the multinationals and imperialism.”

The first day of ESNA began with a rally in solidarity with the Cuban Five. Irma Schwerert, the mother of René González, was joined by former Nicaraguan foreign minister and former president of the U.N. General Assembly, Miguel d’Escoto; secretary-general of the Nicaraguan National Federation of Workers, Gustavo Porras; secretary-general of the Confederation of Cuban Workers, Salvador Valdés Mesa; and Tomás Borge, co-founder of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN).

Delegates applauded loudly for Juan Barahona, leader of the National Resistance Front of Honduras. Since the right-wing coup overthrew democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya two years ago, union leaders, students, workers and more than 500 campesinos have been murdered. Nevertheless, Barahona was optimistic about the struggle, saying, “We are organizing and mobilizing for total power.”

Humberto Montes de Oca, interior sec-

retary of the Union of Mexican Electrical Workers (SME), described the struggle of 44,000 workers who were fired by the state-owned power company and physically removed from their jobs by the military. They have been occupying the Zocalo plaza in Mexico City since March 3 in opposition to privatization.

Chilean delegates described the struggle of students and workers in their country. For months, students, teachers and supporters demonstrating for a better educational system have defied arrests and police attacks to continue fighting for free public education. While the ESNA was in session a young student was killed by police gunfire.

In contrast the Nicaraguan government, led by President Daniel Ortega, comandante of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation, has been reducing poverty and inequality, providing health care and education, and building new homes for workers. An important factor in Nicaragua’s success has been the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas, ALBA, which also includes Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador, Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The FSLN, which overthrew the hated Somoza dictatorship in 1979, accepted electoral defeat in 1990. But Ortega was elected in 2006 for a five-year term.

The delegates repeatedly chanted, “¡Ni un paso atrás!” — Not one step backward!

The final resolution solidarized ESNA with “the dignified resistance of the people of Libya,” the Palestinian people, the Cuban people and the Five Heroes, the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, the Chilean students, the people of Colombia and all of the peoples of “Our America.”

A special resolution offered unconditional support to the re-election on Nov. 6 of Ortega, praising the Nicaraguan government for proving that “there are alternatives and our revolutionary parties of America can change conditions of social injustice” created by “traditional parties and oligarchies linked to and subordinate to imperialist interests of international finance capital.”

The resolution stated clearly that “capitalism is confronted with one of its deepest, most integral and most systemic crises” and “the salvation of humanity is only possible with a new social system, socialism.”

Ortega closed the conference, praising the document and blasting capitalism and imperialism. After Ortega’s speech, delegates joined hands to sing “The Internationale.”

The next ESNA will be next year in Morelia, the state capital of Michoacán, Mexico. For more information visit www.encuentrosindical.org □

Celebrating 100th birthday of Vietnam’s hero General Giap

By Paddy Colligan and G. Dunkel

General Vo Nguyen Giap, a hero and leader in the Vietnamese people’s struggles against Japanese, French and U.S. imperialism, celebrated his 100th birthday on Aug. 25. Now frail and living in a medical facility, Giap is regarded as a national treasure and a link to the historic 40 years of war to free Vietnam from colonial and imperialist control. For his military training, Giap used political understanding and revolutionary tenacity to develop the concept of “people’s war” that defeated the vastly-better-armed U.S. forces in Vietnam.

Giap’s parents were fairly well-off farmers from families who opposed the French colonialists ruling Vietnam in 1911. Giap joined a youth group opposed to French occupation in 1925 and did time in French prisons when he was 19. After his release, he joined the Communist Party in 1931, completed his education, and became a teacher, revolutionary journalist and agitator. In the late 1930s he was sent to China to work with Ho Chi Minh to organize a revolutionary movement among Vietnamese exiles.

During World War II, Japan displaced France as the occupying power in Vietnam. Giap returned home in 1944 to organize against the Japanese occupation. After the August Revolution in 1945 that overthrew Japanese rule, Giap became interior minister in Ho Chi Minh’s newly formed government.

But France began reoccupying Vietnam in the fall of 1945. The Indochinese Communist Party, comprised of political activists from the French colonies in the areas that later became Vietnam, Laos and

Cambodia, decided that Vietnam needed an army to oppose this. Giap was picked to form and lead it. In a 2003 interview, Giap explained that he envisioned the army’s role as a means for organizing the masses to carry out a military struggle that would lead to a political revolution.

Giap said that within 48 hours of its founding, “My new army won two successive victories. The first was against the [French] post Phai Khat, the second was at Na Ngan,” just 21 miles away. The intelligence agent who provided the information needed to attack Phai Khat was a 13-year-old named Hoang, while the attack on Na Ngan owed its success to “Duc Long, a man of the region.” Giap told his troops, “Be bold, quick and aim for certain victories.” He followed this motto from the beginning of the Vietnamese People’s Army until the offensive when Vietnam finally expelled the U.S. in 1975.

It was at the decisive battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954, a two-month siege in the hills of northwest Vietnam, that Giap was able to demonstrate the power of the strategy of people’s war. While 100,000 Vietnamese troops fought the well-dug-in French military, another 100,000 Vietnamese workers, mainly women, provided logistics and carried artillery in pieces on bicycles or their backs, along with ammunition and food for the Vietnamese troops. The French colonial power was astonished by its bitterly humiliating defeat with over 11,000 prisoners and gave up its campaign to reoccupy its former colonies in Indochina.

Concept of people’s war

Giap explained the now-familiar concept of people’s war: “It was a war for

the people by the people. FOR the people because the war’s goals are the people’s goals — goals such as independence, a unified country, and the happiness of its people. ... And BY the people — well, that means ordinary people — not just the army but all people.”

He avowed: “We know it’s the human factor, and not material resources, which decide the outcome of war. That’s why our people’s war, led by Ho Chi Minh, was on such a large scale. It took in the whole population.”

The U.S. had provided much of the funding and military supplies that France used before the former colonial power was forced to withdraw in April 1956. Washington supported the regime that the French left in place in south Vietnam and opposed promised elections that would have united the country — elections that Ho Chi Minh, then north Vietnam’s leader, was predicted to win.

Following a now-familiar scenario, the U.S. stepped up direct military intervention as the puppet regime in south Vietnam fell apart. First it sent in advisers and then full combat units in 1965, escalating its involvement until the Tet Offensive in 1968. That was when the Vietnamese liberation forces carried out simultaneous, surprise uprisings in hundreds of towns and villages throughout south Vietnam, coordinated with commando strikes against the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and many major U.S. air force bases. The Tet Offensive turned the tide against U.S. forces in Vietnam.

Giap told PBS in a 1999 interview, “It was the American policy to try and escalate the war. Our goal in the ‘68 offensive was to force them to deescalate, to break

the American will to remain in the war. ... We did this by confronting them with repeated military, as well as political and diplomatic victories.”

The U.S. lost 58,226 soldiers in its war against Vietnam and suffered a few thousand missing in action. This was more than enough to shred U.S. popular support for the war.

Vietnam released figures on April 3, 1995, that a total of 1 million Vietnamese combatants and 4 million civilians were killed in the war. The accuracy of these figures has generally not been challenged. Even with all these deaths, the U.S. could not break the will of the Vietnamese to wage a people’s war for national sovereignty and liberation from neocolonialism.

The impact of U.S. aggression against Vietnam, however, continues today in the form of the terrible, lingering effects of Agent Orange, powerful herbicides spread by the U.S. Air Force over huge areas of south Vietnam. Even after 40 years since the last dumping of these poisons, Vietnamese children are still being born with severely disabling physical and mental abnormalities caused by contamination of the environment and its genetic legacy.

Using skills developed in his early career in the 1930s as a revolutionary journalist, Giap described and analyzed the struggles he led.

Long live Vietnam and its heroic struggles! Long live Senior General Vo Nguyen Giap!

Sources: Quotes are from a 1999 PBS TV interview. Two significant books in English by Giap are “Banner of People’s War, the Party’s Military Line” (Praeger, 1970) and “The Military Art of People’s War” (Monthly Review, 1970).

WORKERS WORLD
editorial

A perfect storm

Capitalism is an economic system that is driven not by human needs but by the need of capitalists to grow their profits. Keep that in mind when thinking about the situation we find ourselves in today.

No industry yields bigger profits than the oil and gas industry. The U.S. corporation ranked at the top of the Fortune 500 list is Exxon Mobil, with profits of \$30.46 billion last year. Its closest competitor for that spot is AT&T, with profits of “only” \$19.86 billion.

Oil and gas are fossil fuels. They exist because of conditions on earth millions of years ago. When they’re gone, they’re gone. They can’t be replaced. Oil and gas are the primary energy sources for all the industrialized countries at the present time.

Scientists have different views on exactly when the oil and gas will run out, but on one thing they all agree: We’re already very close to having used up half of what’s been under the ground. Some even think we’ve already passed that point. With today’s population and energy demands, it means there’s not much time before the rest runs out.

In addition, as the huge hurricane that just plowed up the East Coast from North Carolina all the way to Canada just illustrated, the burning of fossil fuels has caused global warming, which in turn creates more violent weather. Not only are storms often bigger and more intense, but both floods and droughts are occurring with greater frequency. There is even speculation by some scientists that global warming is producing more earthquakes.

Obviously, if research and development leading to energy conservation and alternate fuels is not pursued intensively right now, life as we know it will come crashing down at some point and the world of our children and grandchildren will be very different from what we have known.

So what are the capitalist governments doing about this? Let’s look at the United States. It has consistently balked at any international agreement that would limit greenhouse gas emissions, even though the U.S. has contributed 25 percent of the GHGs in the atmosphere (with only 5 percent of the world’s population) and is the richest country in terms of overall wealth (although tens of millions here live in poverty). U.S. corporations have succeeded in blocking any commitment to help save the environment that would cost them one penny of profit.

What the government IS good at is pursuing more gas and oil around the world, while pushing the limits of what gets extracted here at home. Because it is a capitalist government, it is extremely sensitive to what the lobbyists for the big corporations and banks want.

Right now, they want to control the oil and gas of the Middle East and North Africa. That coincides with the profit needs of the military-industrial-banking complex, which sees war as the only reliable growth industry in this period of capitalist stagnation. That is why the Pentagon has been commissioned to carry out so many wars in this oil-rich region — from Iraq and Afghanistan to Libya — and is threatening Syria and Iran.

Here in the U.S., Big Oil companies want to extract more natural gas by using a dangerous process called hydraulic

fracturing, or “fracking,” that involves pumping a high-pressure chemical soup deep underground to break up shale rocks and release the gas trapped in them. Many communities are now fighting to stop Big Oil from polluting their land and wells through fracking in the Marcellus Shale, which extends under the Appalachians from Georgia and Alabama all the way to New York.

So here’s the big picture: People are suffering here from climate change, high energy prices, fracking and a debt crisis caused by trillions of dollars spent on past wars. People are suffering in Africa, the Middle East and Asia from current high-tech wars meant to reduce them once again to colonies, where the oil companies and their banks can freely suck out the wealth.

It’s a perfect storm. The time to build an anti-capitalist movement is now. A small class of multi-billionaires cannot be allowed to hold the planet and its people hostage. □

NEW YORK CITY

Protesters to counter racists at 9/11 rally

By **LeiLani Dowell**
New York

As the 10th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, activists and community members are organizing to confront a racist rally being planned by anti-Muslim forces on that day.

The Emergency Mobilization Against Racism, War and Anti-Muslim Bigotry, a broad coalition formed in 2010, has reconvened and is holding a series of meetings in New York City. The group successfully held a counterprotest of some 10,000 people on Sept. 11, 2010, drowning out a much smaller hate- and fear-mongering rally protesting the building of an Islamic Center in the vicinity of Ground Zero.

This year — with all the fanfare surrounding the 10th anniversary — the Mobilization says, “It is more important

than ever that we do not allow these racist hate-mongers to be the only voices speaking to the media and to the world. It is especially important to counter, in this period of economic crisis, the forces that want to blame immigrants and Muslims for the growing cutbacks in social services, rising unemployment and continuing wars.”

Stressing the danger of allowing these racist forces to go unchecked, the Mobilization notes that two of the main organizers of the anti-Muslim protest — Pamela Geller of Stop Islamization of America and Robert Spencer of Jihad Watch — were quoted from extensively in a manifesto by Anders Breivik, the racist right-winger who carried out the mass murder of 77 mostly young people in Norway on July 22.

For more information and to endorse the Sept. 11 rally, visit www.IACenter.org/muslimsolidarity. □

In response to threats & attacks on our Muslim Sisters & Brothers



Be there!

VOLUNTEERS & ACTIVISTS NEEDED

Join planning meetings,
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

55 W 17th St, #5C
NY, NY 10011

212.633.6646

www.iacenter.org/muslimsolidarity

SUNDAY •
SEPT 11
NYC CITY HALL
1 pm RALLY
Broadway & Park Pl.

Dom • 11 de sept
1 pm La MANIFESTACIÓN
el lado oeste de la ALCALDÍA
Broadway y Park Pl.

RALLY FOR
UNITY
&
SOLIDARITY

LA UNIDAD Y
LA SOLIDARIDAD

www.iacenter.org/muslimsolidarityendorse

Phony leftists exposed

War of ideas breaks out over battle in Libya

By John Catalinotto

By directing their enormous joint military and economic power against a poorly armed, nonindustrialized country of 6 million people, the imperialist states of North America and Western Europe have imposed a criminal regime on the Libyan people.

Part of Libya's continued resistance to this attempted imperialist takeover of an African state is the ideological struggle within the left and workers' movement internationally. The only legitimate position for the left in the imperialist countries is to support the Libyan resistance to imperialism, whatever form it takes.

As Libyans continue to battle the takeover, the U.S.-NATO forces may still come in on the ground. The new Transitional National Council regime, however, has already been invited to represent Libya in imperialist-dominated international bodies even as its armed gangs are massacring Libyans and the mostly sub-Saharan guest workers remaining in the cities it dominates.

The TNC is not a real government at present, but a racist gang of hoodlums and mercenaries looting homes and museums in Tripoli and other cities. This is fitting, as its U.S. and European Union masters aim to loot all of Africa as freely as they did until the 1960s.

Remember though that in Afghanistan in 2001 and in Iraq in 2003, the imperialists won what appeared to be quick and easy military victories. But an active resistance movement has stalemated the U.S.-NATO occupation of Afghanistan. And the Iraqi puppet regime is still shaky enough that the U.S. occupation will be extended. Reimposing colonialism in Libya may be no easier.

Air war, propaganda war

The U.S.-NATO forces' advantage can be easily explained. Libya's GNP was \$96 billion in 2010, much of it in oil production. The combined GNP of Western Europe and the United States was \$29 trillion, or about 300 times greater than Libya's. Much of Libya's wealth from oil sales was deposited in imperialist banks, which simply confiscated it when their campaign to destroy the Libyan state began.

This enormous wealth advantage yields military dominance. The Pentagon

has half the world's firepower. Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium have a good piece of the rest. This hydra-headed giant faced Libya's tiny army.

The imperialist propaganda machine yields another monopoly of words and images. It demonized Moammar Gadhafi and his family. It disguised the TNC as a "democratic" movement, when it was a small collection of pro-imperialist Libyans, mercenaries, monarchists, reactionary religious forces and opportunist defectors from the Libyan government, with a narrow popular base only in the region around Benghazi.

The media exposed the decisive role of NATO forces only after the TNC entered Tripoli. It probably did so because the imperialist military agencies then wanted credit for what they proclaimed was a victory.

In the Sept. 1 Workers World, Abayomi Azikiwe cites the International Business Tribune, the London Daily Telegraph and the Associated Press, all of which point out the decisive role of Britain's MI6 and special forces, U.S. and French special forces, U.S. air intelligence and heavy bombing by NATO in the battle for Tripoli. The truth is that without NATO leading the way, the TNC forces would never have made it out of Benghazi.

The Qatar-based agency Al-Jazeera has also given the news from Libya an anti-Gadhafi and pro-NATO slant throughout the last five months. Qatari troops are part of the TNC armed force that entered Tripoli on Aug. 21.

Ideological battle

There is another small contribution to imperialist war propaganda that deserves discussion. Political analysts who have an undeserved reputation of being progressive have brought the same arguments to a part of the left movement. These analysts only carry weight because their "leftist" argument coincides with what the imperialists need and want.

Following the Aug. 21 invasion of Tripoli, two such analysts were guests on the Democracy Now! news show, which is popular among progressives.

One "expert" was Juan Cole, a history professor at the University of Michigan. Cole argued that "Libya has reignited the flame of liberty in the Arab world." He claimed the TNC could enter Tripoli easily because it had popular support. Cole ignored the role of NATO's bombing, bribing and intelligence.

The other was Gilbert Achcar, a professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He chided NATO for allegedly first trying to broker a deal between the TNC and Gadhafi. He also presented the TNC as a legitimate popular leadership. Since March, Achcar has promoted the misleading idea that Libyans could "use" NATO to back a legitimate popular uprising without being owned lock, stock and barrel by the imperialists.

Neither "expert" added that the NATO powers have waged this war for oil profits and a military foothold in Africa.

These and similar "experts" around

the U.S. and Europe — who pretend to be progressive — are not acceptable as voices of the left and must be countered by honest anti-imperialist forces, just as one answers any imperialist spokesperson.

Fortunately, there is an attempt to mobilize anti-imperialist ideas — and action — in the United States. Former U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney has been on a North American tour organized by the International Action Center, bringing the truth about NATO's war against Libya. Most of these rallies have attracted between 200 and 500 people. Much support has come from the African-American community, which knows of McKinney's principled anti-racist and anti-war stand when she represented the people of her Georgia congressional district.

The tour is an example of how to build an anti-imperialist alliance that can answer the phony "leftists" and give political support to the resistance from within Africa. □

Thousands in India say NO to war on Libya



PHOTO: AIAIF

Thousands join the protest demonstration organized by the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum in front of the U.S. Consulate in Kolkata Aug. 29 to condemn the attack by the U.S.-NATO forces on Libya.

Demand end to raids & deportations

Detroit immigrants 'march without fear'



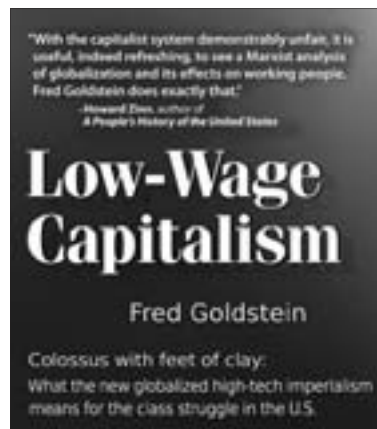
Nearly 500 people gathered Aug. 20 in Clark Park in Detroit for a "March Without Fear" aimed at speaking out against Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids, harassment of immigrants, racial profiling and police brutality. The multinational, intergenerational event, which included several speakers and a march through southwest Detroit, was organized by the Alliance for Immigrant Rights and co-sponsored by the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, United Auto Workers Local 600, One Michigan, and several other organizations.

The rally speakers included representatives from co-sponsoring organiza-

tions, U.S. Rep. Hansen Clarke of Detroit, and several undocumented youth from One Michigan, who spoke out against deportations and ICE raids which have occurred in their communities, including outside of elementary schools and food pantries.

Speakers emphasized the importance of solidarity among all oppressed communities facing racist and imperialist oppression, including immigrants, Latino/a people, Arab and Muslim people, African Americans and workers. After the rally, activists marched from Clark Park to Roosevelt Park.

— Report and photo by Megan Spencer



LOW-WAGE CAPITALISM

What the new globalized high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle in the U.S.

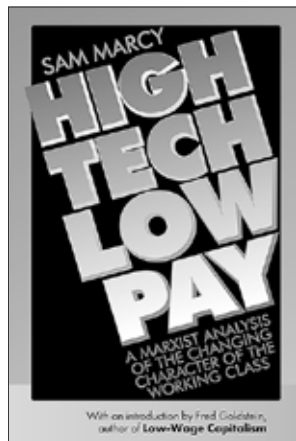
An easy-to-read analysis of the roots of the current global economic crisis, its implications for workers and oppressed peoples, and the strategy needed for future struggle.

Paperback, 336 pages. Includes graphs, charts, bibliography, endnotes and index.

The author is available for lectures & interviews.

www.LowWageCapitalism.com

Available at Amazon & bookstores around the country



HIGH TECH, LOW PAY

A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

Twenty years ago Sam Marcy wrote that the scientific-technological revolution is accelerating a shift to lower-paying jobs and to more women, Black and Latino/a workers. Using Marxism as a living tool he analyzes the trends and offers strategies for labor including the occupation of plants. A new introduction by Fred Goldstein explains the roots of the current economic crisis, with its disastrous unemployment, that has heightened the need for a working-class resurgence.

Available at Amazon & bookstores around the country.

www.workers.org/marcy/hightech/

¡Alcemos nuestras voces - EE.UU./OTAN fuera de Libia!

Las potencias europeas de la OTAN y Estados Unidos están declarando victoria tras haber pulverizado el pequeño país de Libia durante cinco meses brutales. Ellos alegan que las fuerzas “rebeldes” que ellos dirigen, cuyo camino a Trípoli fue allanado por ataques aéreos de la OTAN que eliminaron gran parte de la capacidad civil y militar de Libia, ahora controlan la capital.

Bretaña, Francia, Estados Unidos y la mayoría de los otros bandidos imperialistas han dado reconocimiento diplomático a la agrupación que ellos mismos improvisaron. No debería haber ninguna confusión acerca de quiénes son estas fuerzas “democráticas”. Son los contras de Nicaragua, los mercenarios cubanos en la Bahía de Cochinos, y anteriormente, el régimen títere de Manchukuo establecido por Japón para facilitar la invasión imperialista de China.

Después de la revelación de todas las artimañas y las absolutas mentiras que los gobiernos de EE.UU. han utilizado para enmascarar su criminal agresión contra Irak y Afganistán, no hay ninguna excusa para que cualquier persona progresista actúe confundida y se mantenga al margen. Los motivos de Washington y Wall Street para esta última agresión son claros e inequívocos.

Al igual que en Irak, hay un gran motivo económico por parte de un pequeño grupo de empresas transnacionales políticamente poderosas que controlan el petróleo del mundo. Libia, con una población de sólo 6 millones de habitantes, tiene las mayores reservas de petróleo en África. Las gigantes empresas de energía de Bretaña, Francia, Italia y Estados Unidos durante meses han estado en una competencia despiadada sobre quién re-

cibirá el botín más grande de esta guerra no declarada. Aunque las portadas pueden hablar de Libia en términos de libertad y democracia, las secciones de negocios de la misma prensa imperialista se centran en el tema básico: las ganancias del petróleo.

Además, la clase dirigente de EE.UU. ve el derribe de Libia como una apertura para una mayor penetración en el África subsahariana y la implementación de sus planes de dominación militar de todo el continente a través de Africom: la nueva estructura de mando en África del Pentágono.

Sin embargo, la resistencia del pueblo libio ha sido heroica. Durante casi medio año han resistido no sólo bombas sino una explosión de propaganda propia del mismo Joseph Goebbels hitleriano. Alrededor del mundo, en todos los idiomas, los medios corporativos han representado los agresores como ángeles de misericordia, incluso aún cuando sistemáticamente aterrorizaban al pueblo libio con casi 7.500 ataques aéreos que privaron a esta nación desértica de electricidad, agua, alimentos y combustible. Con su riqueza petrolera, Libia ha construido un ambiente moderno, en gran parte urbano. Como en Irak, esto mejoró la calidad de vida del pueblo, pero también le dejó más vulnerable al daño que pueden hacer bombas de alta explosividad al sistema de alcantarillado, electricidad, plantas potabilizadoras, carreteras y puertos de una ciudad.

Los medios de comunicación están ahora en un frenesí sobre quién puede usar los términos más viles y racistas para describir al coronel Moammar Gadhafi, a quien el Occidente nunca le ha perdonado por haber apoyado las luchas de liberación africanas y haber nacionalizado el petróleo de Libia. Después de personalizar el tema: ¡”Gadhafi debe irse”! — el Gobi-

erno de Estados Unidos y los medios de comunicación serviles tratan de incitar una mentalidad de linchamiento que se supone debe culminar con la captura o el asesinato de Gadhafi — después de lo cual, sus cámaras y reporteros se irán a otros lugares mientras la riqueza del pueblo libio se divide entre los bandidos imperialistas y sus lacayos. Ese en todo caso, es el escenario.

Mientras escribimos, aquellos/as que defienden Libia del nuevo colonialismo de la OTAN se reporta que siguen luchando contra los “rebeldes” en Trípoli. A pesar de toda la agresión aérea y la presencia de británicos, franceses y, sin duda, fuerzas especiales de los Estados Unidos sobre el terreno, el tomar esta ciudad de 2 millones de personas no es un paseo. La resistencia al imperialismo puede adoptar muchas formas, especialmente entre quienes han sido armados por el Gobierno de Libia.

Toda persona que defiende el derecho de las naciones a la autodeterminación, que entiende el carácter depredador de las guerras y ocupaciones estadounidenses en Irak y Afganistán, que cree en el pueblo antes de las ganancias, que exige empleos, viviendas y educación, y no más miles de millones para el Pentágono, debería alzar su voz en contra de esta atrocidad que se comete en el norte de África.

Y debemos recordar que esta guerra sucia está pasando cuando hay momentos de desespero para cientos de millones de trabajadores/as en todo el mundo. Una prolongada crisis económica capitalista está destruyendo sus medios de subsistencia y las redes de seguridad. Los países imperialistas cuyas clases dominantes se han enriquecido al máximo con los recursos y la mano de obra de las

naciones oprimidas de África, Asia y Latinoamérica deben ahora destruir puestos de trabajo en el mismo EE.UU. y reducir los presupuestos sociales para garantizar los beneficios de los multimillonarios.

Pase lo que pase en Libia durante los próximos días y semanas, una cosa está clara: es cada vez más difícil para las potencias imperialistas, a pesar de todas sus armas de muerte, mantener los/as miles de millones de trabajadores/as y los pueblos oprimidos del mundo bajo su yugo de hierro.

Este no es el amanecer del imperialismo, cuando unos miles de soldados armados con rifles y pistolas podían enviarse al exterior para ahogar en sangre la resistencia del pueblo mientras el capital financiero tejía su telaraña alrededor de las élites locales.

Esta es la era del imperialismo podrido y moribundo cuando el sistema de ganancias está socavando sus propios mercados, empobreciendo a los/as trabajadores/as en todo el mundo en una constante persecución por más ganancias mientras que la producción se estanca. Es la época de la guerra de alta tecnología y de la producción de alta tecnología, las cuales requieren enormes desembolsos de capital a expensas de la menguante clase de los productores.

En los países imperialistas, todos los cuales son ahora hogar de trabajadores/as de muchas nacionalidades, es época de despertar el internacionalismo, la solidaridad de clase y la resistencia a las dificultades que trae la guerra imperialista para todos y todas tanto aquí en EE.UU. como en el exterior.

¡Estados Unidos y la OTAN fuera de Libia! ¡Continúa la lucha para derrocar el imperialismo y la esclavitud asalariada! □

CALIFORNIA:

Crece apoyo sindical a los 5 Cubanos

Lo siguiente ha sido extraído de un correo electrónico emitido por el Comité Internacional para la libertad de los 5 Cubanos (www.thecuban5.org).

El 13 de agosto, más de 200 trabajadores/as, dirigentes sindicales y activistas comunitarios/as se reunieron en el salón del sindicato United Service Workers para participar en un evento en solidaridad con los Cinco Cubanos. Ese mismo día René González, uno de los Cinco, pasó otro cumpleaños en prisión lejos de sus seres queridos.

Los/as asistentes al evento pudieron ver una exposición de caricaturas políticas de Gerardo Hernández. También vieron un breve vídeo de Danny Glover y otro sobre la campaña de los sindicatos británicos en apoyo a los Cinco.

Esta reunión marcó la primera vez que un sindicato de Estados Unidos organiza un evento únicamente para informar a su base y al liderazgo de la colosal injusticia actual que se comete contra los Cinco Cubanos. El objetivo era ampliar la exposición del caso — que está boicoteada por los medios de comunicación [corporativos] — para [que lo sepa] el movimiento

sindical estadounidense y pedirles unirse a la lucha.

Tony Woodley, ex presidente de UNITE, el sindicato más importante en Inglaterra, viajó a Los Ángeles para participar en el evento. Habló sobre la importancia de la solidaridad: “No se equivoquen sobre esto, se trata de un acontecimiento histórico. Los Cinco Cubanos reciben un gran apoyo a nivel internacional, pero este no es el caso en los Estados Unidos. La solidaridad es absolutamente crucial en este caso; la lucha política será decisiva para el retorno de los Cinco a Cuba”. Woodley compartió un conmovedor encuentro que tuvo con las familias de los Cinco en su última visita a Cuba. “Los Cinco y sus familias son todas personas con gran orgullo, y nada romperá su espíritu”.

Trabajadores/as y dirigentes sindicales representaron un número de sindicatos del sur de California, incluyendo maestros, músicos, electricistas, trabajadores del sector de servicio, transporte y saneamiento, entre otros. Mike García, presidente del sindicato United Service Workers West, [afiliado a la Unión de Empleados de Servicios], recordó a la audiencia que la lucha es

la única herramienta que tienen los/as trabajadores/as en su lucha por la justicia. “La lucha por la libertad de los Cinco Cubanos debe ser parte de la lucha de los/as trabajadores/as de EE.UU., porque es parte de la misma lucha”.

Cristina Vázquez de Workers United (Trabajadores Unidos) explicó brevemente quiénes son los Cinco Cubanos, diciendo: “muchos de ustedes están aprendiendo sobre los 5 Cubanos por primera vez ... porque esta historia se ha mantenido fuera de los medios de comunicación. Cada día luchamos contra la injusticia, y una de nuestras luchas más grandes ha sido la reunificación de familias y la reforma migratoria. Esta lucha no es diferente; aquí tenemos esposas, hijos y padres que han sido separados durante 13 años. Tenemos que ser la voz de las familias de los Cinco Cubanos. Tenemos que ser la voz aquí para el pueblo de Cuba que quiere a sus Cinco Héroes de regreso a casa”. Vázquez alentó al público a recoger postales diseñadas por el sindicato que ella representa para que se envíen al Presidente Obama pidiendo la liberación de los Cinco.

Alicia Jrapko del Comité Internacional por la Libertad de los Cinco Cubanos habló sobre las diferentes campañas en los Estados Unidos que difunden información sobre el caso. Jrapko explicó que se trata de un caso de derechos humanos y justicia básica. “Estos hombres vinieron a los Estados Unidos desarmados, simplemente para defender a su país de los ataques terroristas procedentes de suelo estadounidense. Con una firma Obama puede liberarlos”.

Miembros del Comité Internacional presentaron placas en nombre de los Cinco Cubanos a Woodley, García y Vázquez. Otra placa fue otorgada a Natasha Hickman, editora de Cuba Sí!, una publicación en solidaridad con Cuba producida por sindicatos en el Reino Unido.

Una mesa con información recibió mucha atención de la gente que se registraba para recibir actualizaciones y tomar cientos de tarjetas postales para enviar a Obama. También compraron muchas copias del nuevo documental, “Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up?” (Por favor, ¿puede ponerse en pie el verdadero terrorista?). □